

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE A2

NEW YORK TIMES  
23 April 1987

## A SECURE EMBASSY IS CALLED POSSIBLE

U.S. Can 'Neutralize' Devices  
in Moscow, a State Dept.  
Aide Tells House Panel

**By NEIL A. LEWIS**  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 22 — The State Department's top security official said today that the United States was able to "neutralize" any electronic listening devices that might have been placed in the new United States Embassy in Moscow.

The official, Robert Lamb, the assistant secretary for administration and security, told a House subcommittee that the Administration was devising ways to foil the listening devices believed to be spread throughout the building under construction.

"We have some very good technical minds working on how we can insulate the working areas" from electronic listening devices imbedded in the structure, he said, adding, "I think it's really within the scope of the United States to neutralize anything the Russians put in that building."

Mr. Lamb and other State Department officials encountered a storm of criticism at today's hearing over American security breaches in Moscow.

### Recalled to Washington

The scene was one of representatives taking turns to rebuke Mr. Lamb and the other officials who testified. A principal target of the criticism was Frederick Mecke, the Department's security officer for the Moscow embassy, who was depicted by some Congressmen as being out of touch with the situation in the embassy.

Mr. Mecke has been recalled to Washington for the investigation of security breaches at the current American Embassy where two United States Marines have been charged with espionage.

Under questioning from Representative Olympia J. Snowe, a Maine Republican, Mr. Mecke said that he did not detect any special friction between the Marine guard detachment and the embassy's diplomats. Mrs. Snowe, who visited the Moscow embassy earlier this month, disputed his statement, saying the situation had become one of great hostility. She said one Marine guard told her that if the embassy were attacked he would not defend the diplomats inside.

### Performance Criticized

Representative Daniel A. Mica, the Florida Democrat who is the subcommittee chairman, who accompanied Mrs. Snowe to Moscow, said the assistant security officer at the embassy told him that Mr. Mecke did not carry out spot security checks and failed to perform other required security procedures.

As for what to do about the embassy under construction in Moscow, Mr. Lamb said any decision should await a report being prepared by James R. Schlesinger, a former Defense Secretary and Director of Central Intelligence. Mr. Lamb said it was possible to "shield" working areas so that parts of the embassy could be made secure from the listening devices.

The United States has spent \$190 million on the embassy's construction and experts have estimated it would cost another \$20 million to \$40 million to make the building secure. Several members of Congress, including Senator Patrick J. Leahy, a Vermont Democrat and former vice chairman of the intelligence committee, have said the building must be demolished.

### Policy on Blueprints

The sharpest questioning occurred when Mr. Lamb was asked about a report by the General Accounting Office, the research agency of Congress, that blueprints for United States diplomatic missions in Moscow and other posts, including Lebanon, were given to foreign contractors who did not have proper security clearance.

Mr. Lamb acknowledged that was the case "at least until the end of last calendar year."

Representative Lawrence J. Smith, a Florida Democrat, shouted at Mr. Lamb: "You've acted with gross negligence, with gross ineptitude, with gross stupidity. You're playing with people's lives."

Mr. Mica and other members also complained that the Soviet authorities were harassing American diplomats, making life difficult in numerous small ways.